



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Ref: **EPR-ER**

Progress Pollution Report RIP-GUT SPRINGS Hamlin Valley, Beaver County, UT

I. HEADING

Date: 10/8/02
Site Name: Rip-Gut Springs
From: Sam Borries, OSC
To: Kevin Mould, EPA Headquarters
POLREP No.: **POLREP Initial**

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.: 08FL
Response Authority: CERCLA
NPL Status: Non-NPL Site
Action Memorandum: TBD
Amended Action Memo: N/A
Start Date : N/A
Completion Date: N/A

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

Removal Assessment

B. Site Description

1. Site Location

The Site is located in the southwest part of Beaver County, Utah, in the northwest corner of Section 36, R. 20 W., T. 29 S. The closest town is Hamlin Valley, approximately 18 miles southeast of the site. The site is located in a rural setting, in an semiarid hilly and



forested area. The site covers approximately one-two acres, upon which are three residential trailers, a semi trailer, and a large metal shed. It appears that the property was occupied at one time, but is now abandoned. Rip-Gut Spring is located approximately 1000 feet to the west of the residential trailers. Rip-Gut Springs drains southeast along a dirt road on the southwest side of the property. Bordering the north and northeast side of the property is an arroyo. South and east of the property is moderately flat terrain with no distinguishing features.

2. Description of Threat

Forty-one 55 gallon metal and plastic drums, and thirty 5-gallon plastic pails were identified and characterized at the site. Twenty-one of the 55-gallon drums contained unknown material and the rest were empty. Seven filled metal drums were located along the drainage of Rip-Gut Spring with observable staining around one of these drums. Two filled metal drums were located in the arroyo.

C. Site Evaluation

EPA was contacted by Scott Hacking of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) to assist in determining if a threat to human health and the environment was posed by abandoned drums and other containers near the Rip-Gut Spring drainage. Scott Hacking indicated a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employee found a dead cougar and dead skunk on the property. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) was notified and investigated the property. Torrey Christopherson with the UDWR investigated the property and it appeared to him the cougar had been poisoned in some manner. He also noted the 55 gallon filled drums along the Rip-Gut Spring drainage as well as the other drums and containers scattered around the property. Some of the drums were noted to be leaking and other containers had herbicide and pesticide labels. The property is believed to be owned by a Mr. James Spiers. The investigation was a coordinated effort of the EPA Region VIII, the Utah DEQ, and the Utah DWR.

1.1 55-gallon and 5 gallon pail Sampling Results:

Samples were collected from the 21 filled 55-gallon drums for hazardous classification testing. Samples

were tested for flammability, water reactivity, corrosivity, oxidizers, reactive sulfides, reactive cyanides and chlorine-containing compounds. A majority of the drums had similar properties: a dark brownish-red flammable non-soluble liquid. These drum samples were combined into three separate composite samples (01-03) for laboratory analysis. Two drums had similar properties of a light brown, very flammable, non-soluble, floating liquid. These two drums were composited into sample number 04. The remaining two drums contained wheat grain. Laboratory analytical results are indicated below:

Sample ID	RG-COMP-01	RG-COMP-02	RG-COMP-03	RG-COMP-04
Analysis	Composite of Drums 1 through 4	Composite of Drums 5-7, 10 and 11	Composite of Drums 12 through 19	Composite of Drums 8 and 9
Total Extractable Organic Halogen (ppm)	2,760	2,380	4,230	53.6
Flashpoint (°F)	124	128	123	<79.0
Diesel Range Organics (DRO) (ppm)	310,000	340,000	340,000	N/A
Gasoline Range Organic (GRO) (ppm)	N/A	N/A	N/A	210,000

The thirty 5-gallon deteriorated and damaged plastic buckets contained mostly white, black, and yellowish-white powder. Three samples of the unknown powder were collected with similar materials being composited into two samples and one grab sample. The samples showed no positive results for hazardous characteristics. The laboratory analysis indicated no significant levels of RCRA metals and non-detect for pesticides in all samples from the 5-gallon pails.

1.2 Surface water and Sediment Sample Results:

Two surface water and one sediment sample were collected and analyzed from the Rip-Gut Spring drainage. One water sample (SW02) and sediment sample (SO-01) were collected adjacent to the drums along the drainage. The other water sample (SW01) was collected approximately 200 feet upgradient from the drums. The surface water samples were analyzed for total and dissolved RCRA metals, and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs). The results for the water samples were non-detect for SVOCs and contained no significant levels of RCRA total and dissolved metals. The sediment sample was analyzed for RCRA metals, SVOCs, PCBs and pesticides. The sediment sample was non-detect for PCBs, pesticides, and SVOCs and contained no significant levels of RCRA metals.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Removal actions to date

See information provided above.

2. Next Steps

- Complete a finalization of START2 Trip Report.
- Discuss analytical results with UDEQ and UDWR.
- Determine appropriate future action.

B. Enforcement

N/A

V. COST INFORMATION

N/A